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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CIAE-00
	SJK-01	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	EB-01	HA-09	H-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01
	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	DTC-01

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-----OAF503 041207Z /38

O 041206Z FEB 92 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7994  
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM NIACT IMMEDIATE  
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE  
ARA COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 01112

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PGOV, MASS, ASEC, CASC, PREL, VE  
SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED COUP, MESSAGE NO 6, 0730, 2/4/92

REF: CARACAS 01100 AND PREVIOUS

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. PRESIDENT PEREZ SPOKE TO THE NATION ON TELEVISION  
AGAIN, THIS TIME FROM MIRAFLORES PALACE, AT 0645. FLANKED  
BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GEN. OCHOA ANTICH, AND BY  
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MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AVILA VIVAS, CAP REITERATED HIS  
POINTS ABOUT DEFENDING DEMOCRACY AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL  
ORDER. HE ADDED:

-- THE ARMED FORCES HAVE REPELLED THE ATTACK.

-- TO ALL REBELS: STOP THIS, AND PUT DOWN YOUR ARMS.

-- THE DEFENSE MINISTER HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF ALL NATIONAL  
FORCES SINCE THE BEGINNING AND ACTIVE IN HIS ROLE AS HEAD  
OF THE MILITARY.

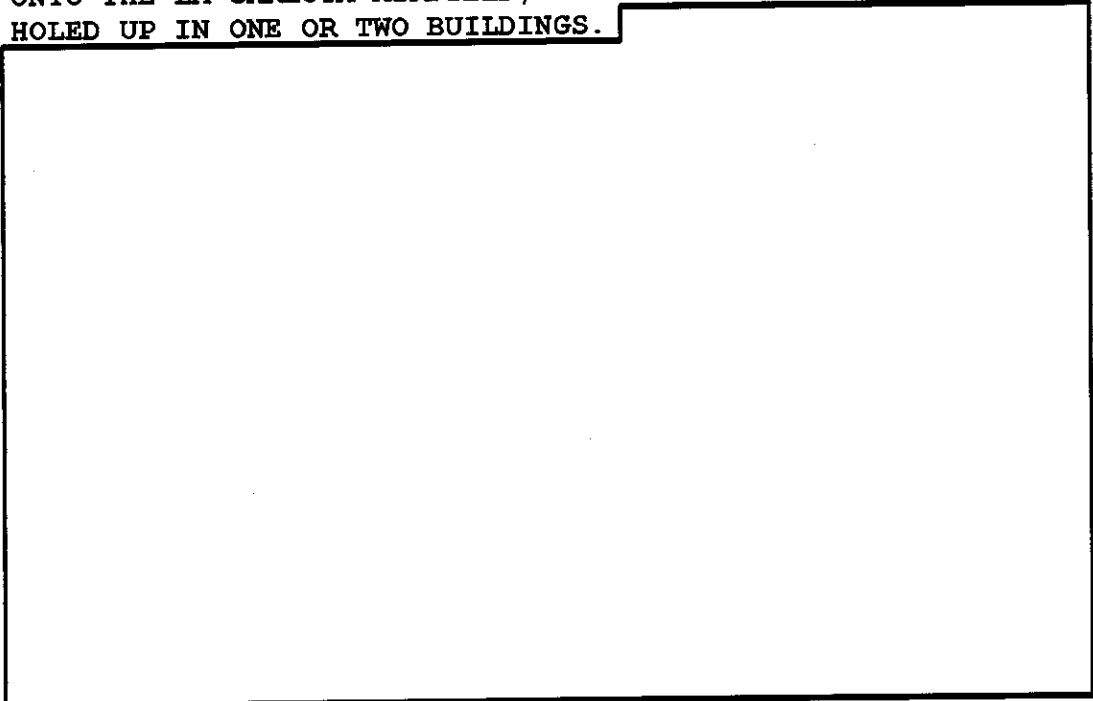
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-- CARACAS IS UNDER CONTROL, AS ARE ZULIA AND ARAGUA STATES. (COMMENT: THIS IS NOT FULLY CORRECT.)

-- THERE ARE STILL SOME PROBLEMS IN THE STATE OF CARABOBO. (COMMENT: AN EARLIER REPORT HAD INDICATED THAT AN ARMORED UNIT FROM VALENCIA, IN CARABOBO STATE, MIGHT BE MARCHING ON CARACAS.)

3. SITUATION AT LA FLORESTA NEAR THE EMBASSY: TANKS AND TRUCKLOADS OF INFANTRY, EARLIER MASSING ON THE OVERPASS OF THE AUTOPISTA IMMEDIATELY NEXT TO THE LA FLORESTA APARTMENTS, HAVE NOW LEFT. SOME HAVE APPARENTLY MOVED ONTO THE LA CARLOTA AIRFIELD, WHERE THE REBELS MAY BE HOLED UP IN ONE OR TWO BUILDINGS.



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4. A LOYALIST ASSAULT AGAINST REBELS AT LA CARLOTA AIRFIELD IS STILL EXPECTED MOMENTARILY (UNLESS THE REBELS SURRENDER FIRST). ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, 3 GOV GENERALS (AIR FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL FUGUET AMONG THEM) ARE HOSTAGES OF THE REBELS ON LA CARLOTA.

5. MARACAIBO: AMCONSUL REPORTS THAT GEN. LARAS IS BACKING THE GOVERNMENT. HE HAS CUT OFF ELECTRICITY TO THE AREAS HELD BY THE REBELS. AMCONSUL CONFIRMED THAT DISIP (SECURITY POLICE) HQ IN MARACAIBO HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY THE REBELS. REBELS ARE STILL HOLDING GOVERNOR ALVAREZ PAZ. (COMMENT: IN SHORT, DESPITE CAP'S LATEST TV SPEECH, IT'S NOT OVER YET IN MARACAIBO, EITHER.) AMCONSUL REPORTS THAT MOST OF THE OFFICERS COMMANDING THE REBELS APPEAR VERY

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YOUNG AND JUNIOR, ALTHOUGH THE TOP REBEL COMMANDER IN MARACAIBO (ACCORDING TO A LOCAL RADIO BROADCAST) IS LT. COL. FRANCISCO ARRIAS CARDENAS.

6. ACCORDING TO A SEPARATE ASSESSMENT FROM GOOD EMBASSY SOURCES, THE SITUATION IN MARACAIBO HAS IMPROVED (SOME UNITS HAVE SWITCHED FROM THE REBEL SIDE TO THE GOV), BUT  
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THE GOVERNOR IS STILL A PRISONER. IN A NEW DEVELOPMENT, THE REBELS THERE HAVE REPORTEDLY SEIZED A LOCAL TELEVISION STATION AND ARE DEMANDING TO MAKE A NATIONAL TV STATEMENT. (WE EXPECT THE GOV TO REFUSE.) ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCES, THE SITUATION IN VALENCIA IS WORSE THAN IN MARACAIBO, WITH HEAVY RESISTANCE STILL BEING ENCOUNTERED.

7. AM EMBASSY FSN CALLED AT 0730 TO SAY THAT HER HUSBAND, AN ARMY LT. COL. WHO WORKS AT MINDEF HQ, HAD CALLED HER AT 0630 TO REPORT THAT THE SCENE THERE WAS "TOTAL CONFUSION" AND THAT THE REBELS APPEARED TO HOLD MORE KEY INSTALLATIONS THAN THE GOV. HE REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT THE LOYALISTS CONTROLLED ONLY MIRAFLORES, THE TV STATIONS,

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AND THE AREA AROUND LA CARLOTA. (COMMENT: HIS REMARKS,  
NOW NEARLY TWO HOURS OLD, MAY REFLECT A SITUATION THAT NO  
LONGER EXISTS, IF IT EVER DID.)

8. LOCAL CHANNEL 10 JUST RAN TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S  
STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT PEREZ AND VENEZUELAN  
DEMOCRACY. STATEMENT WAS DESCRIBED BY COMMENTATOR AS  
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EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.  
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